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A true transcript and
Publication of his Ma-
iesties Letters Pattent.

For an Office to bee erected,
and called the Publike Register
for generall Commerce.

Whereunto is annexed an Ouerture
and explanation of the nature and purport
of the said office, for their better vnder-
standing and direction that shall haue
occasion to vse it, By Sir Arthur
Gorges, Knight.

The second Edition enlarged,



Printed at Britaine Burffe for *John Budge*, and are there
to be sold at his Shop. I 6 I 2.

Law Vol. 1.

NOTE

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A true transcript of
 Publication of his Ma.
 Majesty's Patent.

For an Office to be erected
 and called the Public Register



Printed at the Office of the Public Register
 and sold at the Shop of the Public Register



AMES by the
grace of God,
King of England,
Scotland, France,
and Ireland, de-
fendor of the
Faith, &c. To

all to whom these Presents shall come,
Greeting. Whereas all Trade and
Commerce whatsoever amongst our
wellbeloued subiects, doeth chiefly consist
either in Buying and Selling, or Bor-
rowing and Lending: And for that a
great defect is daily found in the policie of
our State for want of some good, trustie
and ready meanes of intelligence and in-
tercourse betwene our said subiects in that

behalse. By meanes whereof, many men oftentimes upon occasion of necessity and sudden accidents, are inforced to put away and sell Lands, Leases, or other goods and chattels, to great losse and disadvantage for want of good and ready meanes to giue generall notice and publicke intelligence of such their intentions, to many that would (if they knew thereof) as willingly buy as the others would gladly sell. For redresse and remedie whereof, our trustie and welbeloued seruants, Sir Arthur Gorges, and Sir Walter Cope Knights, Gentlemen of our priuie Chamber, haue out of their carefull endeauours found out and deuised a most safe, easie and speedie way to the great aduancement, and helpe vnto generall Commerce, and Trade amongst our welbeloued Subiects; whereby to serue the turnes and occasions aswell of Borrowers

rowers as Lenders, and of Buyers as
of Sellers; by plaine and direct course of
reciprocall intelligence, and interchange-
able correspondencie, for the ready notice
& understanding of one anothers minds:
VVe in our Princely care and provi-
dence for the generall good of our people
(which we much desire and tender) haue
thought it fit, and iust, that the said Sir
Arthur Gorges & Sir Walter Cope
should receiue from vs some fauourable
approbation and lawfull authoritie, to e-
stablish, further and aduance this their
industrious care and faithfull endeauours
for the publike good; whereby much ease,
comfort and benefit would vndoubtedly
ensue to our Subjects of this our Realme
of England and the Dominions of the
same, in the knowledge and vse thereof.
Now wee therefore, that wee reposing
great trust and confidence in the provi-
dence

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dence, integritie and fidelitie of the said
Sir Arthur Gorges and Sir Walter
Cope, for their honèst, iust, and respec-
tue dealing herein: of our especial grace,
certaine knowledge, and meere motion,
haue giuen and granted, and by these pre-
sents, for vs, our Heyres and Successors,
doe giue and graunt absolute, full and free
license, power & authoritie vnto the said
Sir Arthur Gorges and Sir Walter
Cope, their Executors, Administrators
and Assignes, and to their Deputie and
Deputies, during the terme of one and
twentie yeeres, next and immediatly en-
suing the date of these Presents, to erect
set up, keepe and maintaine in any pla-
ces, Cities or Townes within our Realm
of England and the Dominions of the
same, where the said Sir Arthur Gor-
ges and Sir Walter Cope, their Exe-
cutors, Administrators or Assignes sha-
ll thinke

thinke most fit and conuenient, a publike
Office, roome or place of resort or repaire
of people for the notice of Borowing and
Lending of moneyes, and for the better
knowledge of buying, selling or exchanging
of lands, tenements or hereditaments,
leases, or any other goods or chattels what-
soeuer, which they or their Deputies shall
thinke fit, and worthy to be entred and re-
gistr'd; and to keepe one or more Kalen-
der or Kalenders, Register or Registers,
for the registering of ail and singular such
lands, tenements, hereditaments, leases,
wares, commodities, moneyes, or any o-
ther things or chattels, that shall by the
meere motion or good liking of the owners
themselues, or their Factors for them, to
bee brought to such Office and Offices,
there to be entred and Registr'd, to bee
bought, sold, morgaged, pawned, borrowed
or lent: which Office in euery Citie, towne

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or

or place where it shall bee kept, shall be called by the name of The Publike Register for generall Commerce. And also that it shall and may bee lawfull, to and for the said Sir Arthur Gorges and Sir Walter Cope, their Executors, administrators or assignes, and their Deputie and Deputies, of and in the said Office from time to time, during the said terme of one and twentie yeeres, to keepe entries, to make searches, and to continue Registers in places conuenient, of all such lands, tenements, hereditaments, leases, goods, chattels, profits, commodities or merchandizes whatsoeuer, which they the said Sir Arthur Gorges and Sir Walter Cope, their Executors, Administrators or assignes, or their Deputie or Deputies, or any of them shall think worthy to be entered or Registered in the said Office, and that in all things according

to the true intent and meaning of these presents, without let, hinderance or interruption of any our louing Subiectes whatsoeuer. Yeelding and paying thereof during the terme aforesaid, to Vs, our Heires and Successors, from the feast of Saint Michael the Archangell next ensuing the date hereof, the yearely rent of fortie poundes of lawfull money of England, payable at the two vsuall feasts of our Lady, and Saint Michael, by equall portions. And we doetherefore by these presents for Vs, our Heires and Successors, prohibite, forbid, and straightly charge and command all, and euery our subiects whatsoeuer, that none of them during the said terme of one and twentie yeares, by these presents granted, doe attempt, undertake or presume to imitate, erect or exercise any like publike Office or Register of intelligence, or entercourse

for Trade and Commerce, upon paine of
our indignation and high displeasure. Al-
way provided, that no man be compelled
to make Entrie or Search in the said Of-
fice at all, nor when such Entry or Search
shall be voluntarily made, shall pay any
more for such Search or Entrie then shall
please himselfe. And also that euery man
be left to his owne election and free choyce
to use any Scriuener, Broker, friend,
seruant or Factor, or any other for any
the causes aforesaid, in as free, liberall,
and ample manner as they haue hereto-
fore vsed and accustomed. And that euery
man, who for secrecy or other causes
knowne to himselfe, shall be unwilling to
use his owne name in the proceedings
hereof, may use the name of his seruant,
friend, Factor, or any other at his owne
will and pleasure. Provided also, and
our will and pleasure is, that the said Sir
Arthur

Arthur Gorges, and Sir Walter
(Cope, or either of them, their, or either
of their Executors, administrators, or as-
signes, shall at, or before the feast of Saint
Michael the Archangell, which shall be
in the yeare of our Lord God, one thou-
sand, sixe hundred and twelue, finde by
experience that they shall not be able by
the gains arising by reason of this Office,
to defray the maine charges, expences,
and rent incident to the saide Office
and Officers; in respect thereof shall bee
minded utterly to relinquish and give up
the said Office, and the exercise thereof,
and all profite and benefite which there-
of may arise or grow; and the same their,
or any of their intentions and minds ther-
in, shall signifie vnto the Lord Trea-
surer of England for the time being, un-
der their handes and seales: That then
these our Letters Parents, as to them or

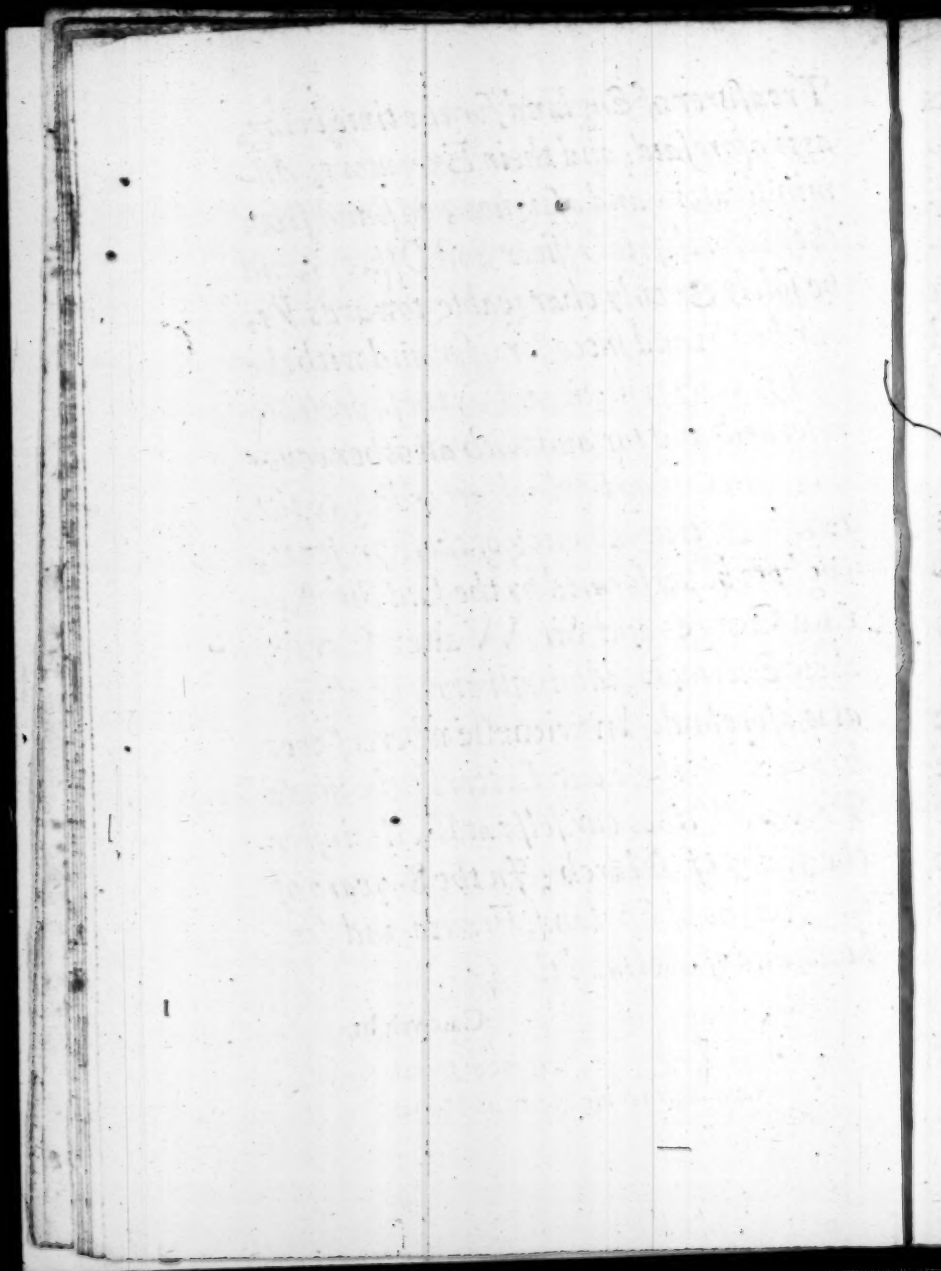
either of them, their or either of their Ex-
ecutors, administrators or assignes, or a-
ny of them which shall so signifie unto the
said Lord Treasurer of England for the
time being, his or their mind and intenti-
on, vtterly to relinquish and giue vp the
said Office and exercise thereof: and all
profits and benefits, which thereof can or
may arise or grow, shall be vtterly voide,
and the said party or parties, so signifying
as is afore said, their Executors and ad-
ministrators to be from the time of such
signification, discharged of the said yeare-
ly rent, before in these presents reserued,
which should afterwarde incurre and
grow due; and the other party and parties
clayming interest in the said Office, and
other the premises by, and vnder the said
Letters Patents, and not so signifying his
or their minde and intention, vnder his or
their hand and Seale vnto the said Lord
Treasu-

Treasurer of England for the time being,
as is aforesaid; and their Executors, Ad-
ministrators and assignes, to stand from
thenceforth sole Officer and Officers, and
be solely & only chargeable towards Vs,
our heires and successors, for and with the
said yearely rent, in and by these presents
referred; and for and with all other cove-
nants and things, which according to the
tenour & true meaning of these presents,
ought to be performed by the said Sir Ar-
thur Gorges and Sir Walter Cope,
their Executors, administrators or assignes
as is aforesaid. In witnesse whereof wee
haue caused these our Letters to be made
Patent. Witnes our selfe at Westminster
the 5. day of March; In the 8. yeare of
our Reigne of England, France, and Ire-
land, and of Scotland the 44.

Cartwright.

Per me de privato Sigillo.

Examinatur per me Thomam Marten.





To the vnpartiall Reader.



N matters of this nature, where a loyall desire hath endeauoured to performe an acceptable seruice to the Common wealth; albeit the successe sort not in euery point, answerable to hope and expectation: yet this may stand for a maine comfort, that the intention is free from all publique offence, or priuate

uate wrong, and therefore respects
not the taxe or scandall of those ma-
lignant humours, which are accusto-
med to cast corrupt aspersions on ho-
nest designs. But because this proiect
hath meerely and solely proceeded
from mine owne poore conceit and
labour, (sayming specially at the ad-
uancement of mutuall Commerce,
the bond and sinewes of humane soci-
etie) I haue thought good for the a-
uoiding of all doubtfull construction
or mistaking (which might blemish
it in the birth) to deliuer it into the
world, with a perspicuous Overture
and direction concerning the port
and vses thereof; because they are but
briefly touched, and in general terms
set downe in the Patent.

Arthur Gorges.



An ouerture and explanati-
on of the purport and vse of
this OFFICE.



First, it is to be vn-
derstood that this
Office to be know-
en and called by
the name of The
Publique Regi-
ster for generall

Commerce, is indeede but the very re-
semblance of a publike Market, whereun-
to all men may freely repaire, and resort
to Trade and Traffique, without on-
straint or restraint, at their owne willes

Broker

and pleasures. And as in Markets many Commodities are solde and met withall more easily, and better cheape in one selfe same place, then by seeking vp and downe the Countrey for them with more trouble, and at dearer rates in severall places: So is it by the vse and benefite of this Office, which as a publique Market, is solely in his Maiesties power to authorize and priuledge.

Secondly, this publique Market is a place which all men may easily finde out and freely repaire vnto, for speedie meanes of helpe vpon any extremitie of forfeitures of Bonds or Counterbonds, or danger of morgages of Lands or goods by breach of dayes, when they know not suddenly where to provide themselves of monyes vpon good securitie; for that euery man (especially those that dwell in remote Shires) is not acquainted with a
Broker,

Broker, nor knowes assuredly where to
finde one to serue his turne upon such vr-
gent occasion, or if he doe, it will be at a
deare rate: which defect this Register
shall bee able to supply with very conscio-
nable and moderate consideration; taking
nothing of any, but what the parties
themselves shall in reason thinke fit and
competent for the seruing of their turnes,
by the trauell of the Officers.

Thiraly, by instance to make it more
plaine, such men as haue Moneyes lying
by them, that they would expose after
eight, nine, or tenne in the hundred, may,
if they please, make it knowne and haue it
registred in this Office, whereby such as
repaire vnto this Register to borrow, may
also receiue notice and direction accor-
dingly for such summes as they desire by
assignment from the Officers, if the secu-
rity be good and liked of.

Fourthly

013 ~~Fourthly~~ by way of example also to
expresse the use and benefite of this Office
for Buying and selling: Suppose that
one hath Lands or a house in Wiltshire
that hee would gladly sell, suddenly to
raise moneyes, without too great losse, but
hath knowes not how to make it generally
knowne to the world; and that there are
some others as desirous to buy Lands or a
House in that Shire at a reasonable rate,
and cannot learne nor get knowledge of
any such; yet by recourse to this Register
they may easily informe themselves, and
have mutuall intelligence of one ano-
thers mindes perfectly, and readily, al-
beit they dwell farre asunder; whereas
now many times both parties are in care
and cannot serue their turnes according-
ly, undergoing thereby much inconveni-
ence, which this Office with great ease
doeth remedie.

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Fiftly

Fiftly, the parties themselves that doe either lend or borrow, buy or sell, may vse it with as great securitie and secrecie as they shall thinke fit by using other mens names then their owne, other places then their owne houses, and other friends or Factors for themselves if they bee so disposed. So as by this free, plaine and easie course all men may rest satisfied, that there is no cunning intent by meanes of this Office, to defraude men, or by the practise thereof to discover mens wealths or secret estates, further then to themselves shall seeme good.

Sixthly, it is neyther desired nor meant that any should leave their Moneyes or Goods that they would lend or sell, in the charge or custodie of this Office, but in such places as the owners themselves shall thinke most safe and conuenient; whereby such as would
bor-

borrow or buy, may (if they please) by this Register bee directed to those places or persons that would Lend or Sell to serue their turns mutually. And by this course all men may rest secure of the integritie and faire dealings that shall be vsed concerning other mens monies and goods; which the Patentees seeke not to haue the custody or exposing of for their priuat profit, but will rather auoide the accidents and dangers of such hazards, and losses, as might happen in so great a charge, by mis-reckoning, robbing, or many other waies, which we see so often happens vnto men in their owne priuate houses. And such a misfortune might bee both a disparagement to our credits by wrong constructions, and also a taxe and preiudice to the proceeding and reputation of this Office (which consistng meereley of the good opinion of the world for the iust dealing

ling to be used therein) if it bee found
contrary or corrupt, it cannot subsist, but
will die in it selfe as vnprofitable More-
ouer whereas many men dwelling far from
London, are nowe enforced to repaire
thither, to their great trauaile and charge
to serue their turns many waies in these
forenamed kinds; by the benefite and use
of this Office they shal be much eased. For
it is intended (by the fauour of God) that
in seueral places of this Realme this pub-
lique Register shall be kept in some such
chiefe Cities or Townes as shall be found
most conuenient to serue the Countries next
about them in these affaires, and to holde
correspondency with the Citie of London.

Againe, it is very certaine that diuers
landes, leases, houses, woods and chattels,
which haue beene sold priuately at very
low rates, to the no little losse of the ow-
ners, would haue bin purchased at more

indifferent prices, if they had bin more
publiquely knowne for it often falleth out,
that those who would gladly buy such, doe
seldome or neuer get knowledge of the Sel-
lers intent, till the things desired bee past
recouery, to the preiudice of both parties :
which defect this publique Register will
be a great meanes to supply.

Furthermore, there are a world of ex-
traordinarie things, which are but few
mens monies, and the owners themselues
would gladly vent if they knew how, but
lie concealed or in effect lost in the sale,
because that diuers others, which would
as willingly buy such at valuable prices,
know not how or where to recouer them.
But herein it is to bee vnderstood that no
commodities of base qualitie or inferiour
values shall be entred into this Register,
but such as the Officers shall thinke fit to
be dealt in, without disparagement of the
place.

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Besides, it often falleth out that men
upon extremitie are driuen to pawne
things of good value for small summes, to
serue their turnes with Moneyes, vntill
they can sell them outright; wherein they
use the meanes of Scriueners or Brokers,
in whose handes they leaue the saide
pawnes, setting very reasonable prices on
them, allowing also a reward: and yet
notwithstanding it is often seene and spo-
ken of, that many Scriueners or Brokers,
to whom such things haue beene com-
mitted in trust, would neuer vent them
at the owners prices, except they might
make a greater surpluse to themselves
then the rate limited. And by that
meanes many haue beene kept in want of
such reliefe, as their owne goods would
affoorde them, whereby at last their
pawnes haue eaten themselves out in v-
surie, or at least haue beene sold to great

losse, the owners wanting meanes to re-
deeme them: to which grievance this
publike register may yeeld a comforta-
ble remedie.

Moreouer, whereas many conscio-
nable men would willingly expose their
Moneyes for eight or nine in the hun-
dred, but cannot make it knowne, and
therefore doe put their stockes into the
hands of Brokers and Scriueners to im-
ploy for them: so it is, that those Brokers
doe for the most part take tenne in the
hundred for those Moneyes which the
owners doe affoord at a cheaper hand;
thereby wronging both the lender & bor-
rower: which inconuenience this publike
Register would easily remedie, by giuing
all men safe and ready meanes to expose
their owne Moneys; besides the assurance
neuer to be deceiued in their trust, which
now many times happens when brokers or
Scri-

Scriueners do chance to fall bankruptes.

Furthermore, whereas there is daily occasion of returning and paying of Moneyes from one part of the Kingdome to another, by meanes of Trade and Commerce: and therein is found a great defect for want of some safe and speedie meanes of direction, for interchangeable correspondence in that behalfe (because that men are now inforced either to conuey those Moneyes that they are to pay or receiue, by Carriers, Clothiers, or seruants, who are many times robbed; or else men are driuen to be at extraordinary cost, for the returnes of moneyes, by letters of Exchange) by the vse of this publike register men may (if they please) greatly ease and remedy both these inconueniences. And to expresse the maner of doing it by example (which is the plainest way of instruction,) suppose that if any gentlemā, merchant or

Tradesman of the North, vpon occasion
of businesse, being come to London, giues
notice there vnto this Register, that hee
can make present payment of Moneyes
in Yorke at a certaine day, to serue the
turnes of any Londoners, or others in
that place, if they will deliuer the like
Summes in London; and so accordingly
may any Londoners or others search the
Register to that or the like intent, where-
by to giue himselfe knowledge of any in-
terchangeable correspondencie, for pay-
ments or Receites at Yorke. And in this
sort may men mutually vnderstand one
anothers minds for Trade and Com-
merce, and with no lesse facilitie and se-
curitie serue their turnes one of another
in matters of this kinde, throughout all
those Cities of this Kingdome, where this
publique Register shall bee erected and
kept, which will bee free for all men to re-
paire

paire vnto, at their pleasures. But here-
in it is to be vnderstood, that this publike
Register shall not be made so vulgar, as
to be kept in euery chiefe Citie or Shiere-
towne within the Realme, but in those
necessarie and commodious places that
shall bee found most fit for the publicke
good, and to performe those beneficiall
Offices that are promised and may be ex-
pected by the vse of this publike Regi-
ster for the aduancement of generall Com-
merce.

Againe, to giue those men that would
borrow full satisfaction, how they shall be
assured when they come to this Register
for direction in that behalfe, and haue gi-
uen the Officer such gratuitie, as in reason
and out of his owne free will hee hath
thought fit, in regard of the note or dire-
ction deliuered to serue his turne, for the
Summes that vppon good securitie hee
would

would take vp, and not bee disappointed,
nor lose his reward giuen: If it so fall out
(for such accidents may happen) that ei-
ther the partie that should lend this Mo-
ney be from home, or else how otherwise
so disposed of his stocke, (since the intelli-
gence giuen to this Register) that hee
cannot instantly serue the turne of him
that would borrow; let that partie againe
returne to the Office, and he shall either
presently haue another note, whereby to
serue his turne, or else he shall receiue the
reward that he hath giuen the Officer in
that behalfe: Whereby may plainely ap-
peare, that there shall bee no shifts used
either to frustrate men of their desired
purpose and hope in this Office, or trickes
to draw rewards for that, which by the
use of the Office, or trauell of the Offi-
cer is not merited. And in this point I
haue thought fit to giue good caution; both
for

for that such chances may sometimes fall
out: And besides it is not unlikely, but
that this obiection may bee made. And
therefore very pertinent to the purpose,
and to auoide doubts, plainly to set down
an answer, and certaine resolution, what
men may depend vpon, and how they shall
be dealt withall in such cases, thereby to
auoide all scruple. And as in matters of
borrowing, so vpon occasions of buying, the
like course and restitution shall be vsed.

But because amongst all these Ouer-
tures and relations, there hath not beene
any mention made, either when or where
this publike Register shall bee erected and
kept; the which it may be presumed men
will expect should haue beene in this dis-
course related, touching that point, it is
very requisite this much to say: That the
Office is of such a nature, as that it will
require many things necessarie for the

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complete ordering and fitting thereof, as
also no lesse care and circumspection in
the choice of such Officers and Clerkes,
as shall be answerable and futable to that
integritie and iust dealing that is promi-
sed by the Patent, in the behalfe of the
Patentees. Besides, to finde out and fa-
shion a canuient place fit for this Office
could not be done suddenly, nor in haste,
considering that our Patent was not past
the Seale little more then a Moneth since,
and before that time the Patentees not
assured whether it should passe, or not:
and therefore no reason for them to make
preparation for that which lay not in their
owne powers to dispose of. Notwith-
standing if it so fall out, that the proiect
(in maner as it is expressed) proue accep-
table to the world, in regard of the pub-
lique good, which is the true scope and end
thereof, this may suffice, that all expedi-
tion

tion shall be vsed for the erecting thereof,
and sufficient notice giuen by some pub-
lique maner of intelligence in what place
it shall be kept.

Lastly, whereas his excellent Maie-
stie according to the custome of former
times, and of all well policed States, hath
in his Princely disposition pleased to giue
grace and preferment to diuers honest
Proiects and profitable inuentions, which
haue truely tended to the publique good,
without wronging the particular right of
any; and in that regard hath also vouch-
safed to grant his Letters Patent for the
sole priuiledge and practise of this new in-
uented Register to the Patentees, if any
vndutifull or malignant spirit for a selfe
private gaine, will expostulate the iust-
nesse of this proceeding, it is thus truely
and briefly answered, That it is in all e-
quitie as Honourable for his Maiestie,

to provide as good meanes for the ease and benefit of his people in generall (without any abridgement of former libertie) as it is lawfull or iust for any private Scriuener, Broker, or other, to provide a course to aduance his owne particular estate and profit, which is often done to the detriment of many. And now that the nature, vse and scope of this publique Register is plainly and truely manifested, I leaue all men to their owne sence and liking, and the successe hereof to the eternall guider of all things.

S Ince the first Printing and publishing of this Pamphlet, concerning the Register for Commerce, some misreports haue beene spread to the preiudice of the Office, wherein we desire to giue all honest Men reasonable satisfaction.

First whereas it is suggested, that this
Register

Register will bee a meanes to enter into Mens estates, and lay them open to euery enuious Inquisitor; We answer, That in our former Pamphlet it is amplie set downe, how euery man may expose his Moneyes, by what name, and by what meanes he pleaseth, of Factors, or friends with Assignment, to what place he thinks good, for secrecie sake, and the like may be vsed by the Borrower, or Suretie, if they so please.

Besides wee are determined that no entrie shall be made, nor Recorde kept either of Lender, Borrower, or Suretie in our Register, but onely a note shall be taken of the parties names that doe lend, or borrow; in priuate Paper, and that to cōtinue but during the time of the contracting; And as soone as they agree or breake off, the note shall be cancelled and redelivered; in all which the Borrower shall not

know the Lender, nor the Lender the Borrower; Besides the Deputies and Clarkes are to take a corporall Oathe, which they voluntarily offer for their secrecie and integritie herein, so farre forth as reasonably shall be thought fit.

Againe, whereas it is doubted that in this Register there lurkes some mysterie and policie of State, dragging after it a hidden inconuenience not yet seene. Our answere is, That all the Armour in the world, are not able to strengthen feare; nor any protestations sufficient to remooue iealousie. But yet to men of reasonable vnderstanding, the limits of our Patent, and the very nature of our Office, may giue sufficient assurance in this behalfe.

For we haue sundrie such strict conditions, set downe in our Patent, to be obserued in the execution of this Office, as that we are indeed but as Tenants at will, du-
ring

ring the good liking and approbation of o-
ther men, who if they finde this Register
to be dangerous, or the Officers corrupt,
the proceeding and practise thereof can-
not subsist. No man being constrained
to employ the same in other sorte, nor to
giue any other reward, then shall freely
proceede from his owne voluntarie dispo-
sition. Besides we are by the rules of ho-
nestie and discretion in these cases bound
to our good behauiour, for we should shew
our selues very ill disposed, and worse ad-
uised, if by wronging any man in disco-
uering his priuate Estate, or for any other
partiall respect by any hidden indirect
practise, we should both runne our selues
headlong into publique obloquie, and also
wilfully ouerthrow our owne proiect and
profit. Wherefore we onely pray to bee
referred to the experience of a little time,
and

and in the meane season, to bee afforded
but a charitable construction: and then
we doubt not, but there will soone bee an
end of these misconceites, which had
neuer so much as any begin-
ning in our thoughts.

(...)

FINIS.

This Office is kept at the new Bricke
building, next within the Middle
temple Gate.

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THE OFFICE OF THE
SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY OF
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

This office is to bee kept at Brit-
taine Burse.

